



**Combined Councils Meeting: The State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
and
The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/PL 102-321 Planning
Council**

Minutes

April 21, 2015

State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council Members Present: John Winslow, Martha Danner, Mary Pizzo

Maryland Advisory Council Members Present: Sarah Burns, Chair; Mike Finkle, Dennis McDowell, Joanne Meekins (by phone), Robert M. Pender, Anita Solomon

Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent: Gerald Beemer, Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Michele Forzley, Joshana Goga, Edwin C. Oliver, Livia Pazourek, Charles Reifsnider, John Scharf, John Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

PL 102-321 Council Members Present: T.E. Arthur, Coordinator; Anne Blackfield (by phone), Naomi Booker, Chicquita Crawford, Jan Desper Peters, Dayna Harris (by phone), Nancy Feeley, John Hebb for Morgan Cole, Sharon Lipford, Cynthia Petion, Michelle Stewart, Crista Taylor, Phoenix Woody

PL 102-321 Council Members Absent: Lynn Albizo, Robert Anderson, Karen M. Black, Michael Bluestone, Herb Cromwell, Kate Farinholt, Vira Froehlinger, Ann Geddes, A. Scott Gibson, Julie Jerscheid, George Lipman, Dan Martin, Ebele Onwueme, Jacqueline Powell, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Kathleen Ward

BHA Staff Present: Brian Hepburn, Lisa Hadley, Daryl Pley, Brandee Izquierdo, Robin Poponne, Iris Reeves, Hilary Phillips, Soula Lambropoulos, Darren McGregor, Ardenia Holland, Greta Carter

Guests and Others:

Jodie Chilson, Maryland Department of Legislative Services;

Lori Rugle, Maryland Center on Problem Gambling;

Jeff Beck, Maryland Center on Problem Gambling;

Jennifer Tuerke, ValueOptions®Maryland; Jacqueline Pettis, ValueOptions®Maryland;

Jessica Honke, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland

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INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Maryland Advisory Council Chair, Sarah Burns. Attendees introduced themselves. The draft minutes of the January 20, 2015 Maryland Advisory Council meeting were approved. Also, the draft minutes of the March 17, 2015 Combined Councils Retreat were approved with a correction to remove Jodie Chilson from the attendance list as present. Upon correction, the minutes will be placed on the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) Web site. Please note all approved minutes will be posted on the BHA Web site at <http://bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/>. The Joint Council and SDAAC are links on the home page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sarah Burns highlighted that on behalf of the Joint Council, the Executive Committee submitted a letter in support of the Certificate of Need proposal for Sheppard Pratt Health System to build a replacement hospital facility in Elkridge to replace their current Ellicott City location.
- Jessica Honke announced the NAMI Walk will be held Saturday, May 16, 2015, start time will be at 10:00am, at the Inner Harbor, West Shore Park. For more information, contact NAMI at 410-884-8691 or register free of charge at www.namiwalks.org/maryland.
- Mike Finkle announced that On Our Own of Maryland's (OOOMD) 23rd Annual Statewide Conference, "FRIENDS: We'll Be There For You - Peers in Recovery", will be held June 4 and June 5, 2015 at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD. For further information, contact OOOMD at 410-646-0262 or email: oomd@onourownmd.org.
- Robin Poponne informed the Councils that a get well card will be sent on behalf of the Councils to Charles Refsnider, a member of the Maryland Advisory Council who is recovering from medical challenges. He has been transferred to a short term nursing home facility for rehab and recovery and should be released soon.
- Cynthia Petion announced that the Behavioral Health Administration's will be hosting its Annual Plan Development Meeting for stakeholder participation to develop the FY 2016 Behavioral Health Plan. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 24, 2015 from 9:30am – 2:20pm at Temple Oheb Shalom. Ms. Petion stated that this is an opportunity for us to have an inclusive process that helps support our strategies and direction. The meeting will include individuals representing the interests of behavioral health (mental health and substance use) across the state. For further information, please contact Greta Carter, BHA, at 410-402-8473.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

BHA's Executive Director, Brian Hepburn, M.D., provided the following Director's Report:

Dr. Hepburn encouraged participation in the NAMI Walk. Also, he announced the BHA's Annual Conference will be held May 13, 2015 at Martin's West. The theme is "Building a Mutual Understanding and a Unified Vision". Conference information is available on BHA's Web site, <http://bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/> . You may also register at <http://trainingcenter.umaryland.edu> .

Dr. Hepburn announced that he will be retiring at the end of June. He said that he has a lot of mixed feelings. He will be taking another position starting in July as CEO with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). Dr. Hepburn thanked everyone for their support and comrade through the years; and the great experience. He is proud of the great work that we have all done together.

Lisa Hadley, M.D., BHA's Medical Director, stated that there will be a retirement for Dr. Hepburn on June 11, 2015 at the Rice Auditorium on Spring Grove Hospital Center's Campus and details will be sent out soon. She also announced that she recently attended the 2015 American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc. Conference in Atlanta and she said that the 2016 conference will be held in Baltimore at the end of October or early November 2016. She stated, this will give Maryland a chance to highlight some of their programs.

Daryl Plevy, BHA's Deputy Director for Operations, reported that the Administration continues to work on integration efforts under the Administrative Services Organization.

- One area of concern include getting the Substance Use grants data to work well in the ValueOptions system. The SMART (Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking system) is a web-based tool that provides a consent-driven client tracking system for state agencies and private treatment providers. Providers use this system to store enrollment data and client encounters regarding their care. The SMART system end effective, July 1, 2015 and Substance Use data will continue in the ValueOptions system.
- The BHA will continue to work with Medicaid and the ASO to ensure a successful transition for improved data collection and tracking treatment outcomes.

Ms. Plevy also announced that on the last day of the Legislative Session, House Bill 1109 passed that required accreditation for most services in Behavioral Health. The next step in this process, is to publish regulations that go along with passage of that Bill. She stated that 2017 is the approximate time when total accreditation will be required. Draft regulations will be posted between July and September.

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THE COMBINED COUNCIL'S CONCERNS:

Members of the Combined Council also highlighted other legislative activities that would have significantly impacted the behavioral health budget. However, strong advocacy and efforts launched by the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition helped to reverse proposed cuts. As a result of these efforts, the Combined Council motioned to draft a letter to the Governor that supports restoring funding in the behavioral health budget.

COMBINED COUNCILS BUSINESS:

Congratulations was extended to all. Particularly for the Combined Council's input on drafting language for Legislation to create a Behavioral Health Council. Senate Bill 174 and House Bill 1262 which passed, establishing the Behavioral Health Advisory Council. The Bill takes effect October 1, 2015.

Current members of the Combined Councils (State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council and the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council - both of which will dissolve and be replaced through the enactment of Senate Bill 174 and House Bill 1262) took on the duty of reviewing the draft of the By-laws for the new Behavioral Health Advisory Council. This draft was developed based on the input of the break-out groups of the Combined Councils' retreat on March 17th. Copies of the draft By-laws were emailed/mailed to all current members prior to this meeting.

Discussion included:

- Clarification of the Executive Committee role in determining outcome of votes
- Further clarification of suspension/removal criteria
- Finalizing the choice of Committee structure to be adopted by the new Council
- Addition of an attendance requirement for committee meetings
- Expectation that members serving two full terms also serve on a committee
- Non specification of Committee meetings' schedules, frequency, location, and duration in the By-laws
- Further clarification will be sought over the role and allowable duties of a Proxy, particularly related to voting in place of the absent member
- Further clarification will be sought on the role of non substance-related addictions, particularly since the legislation does not specify their role

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Suggested corrections included:

- Including the designees of In-statute Ex-Officio members
- Use of the words “behavioral health” to increase inclusive language
- Only specifying state employees non-eligibility for the Governor appointed branch of the Council
- Correction to the Annotated Code article number that details the attendance requirement for individuals appointed by the Governor
- Consolidating the Committee Chairs description under the Committees article
- Minor grammatical changes

It was agreed that changes/suggestions would be incorporated into the draft by-laws which would be re-distributed in May and voted upon in June.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Combined Council will meet in June.

The Agenda for the June 16th Combined Councils meeting will be posted on the both Council’s web pages, under the resources section, on the BHA Web site at <http://bha.dhmdh.maryland.gov/> . The Joint Council and SDAAC are links on the home page.